

# COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



## **Week of October 3, 2016**

**Land Use Resource Officer, Efforts to Reduce Class Size and Close Achievement Gap & Update from County Health Officer**



Council Coming Attractions is a summary of some of the issues before the Council. All Council staff reports and additional information on each item scheduled for Council or Committee review can be viewed at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/packet/index.html>.

Also the Council meeting schedule may change from time to time. The current Council agenda can always be viewed at:

[http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/resources/files/agenda/col/current\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/resources/files/agenda/col/current_agenda.pdf).

- On Tuesday, Sept. 27, the Council Session is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. with the following proclamation presentations:
  - ✓ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Giant's Sponsorship of "It's Academic" by Councilmember Elrich; and
  - ✓ Mental Illness Awareness Week by Councilmember Berliner.

Other key items on the Council's agenda include the following:

- Expedited Bill 40-16, Consolidated Retiree Health Benefits Trust Board-Authority to Delegate-Amendments  
The Council is scheduled to introduce Expedited Bill 40-16. The lead sponsor is Council President Floreen, at the request of the County Executive. A public hearing is scheduled for Oct. 25 at 1:30 p.m. The staff report can be viewed at: [http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=136&event\\_id=4992&meta\\_id=126606](http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=4992&meta_id=126606).  
The Consolidated Retiree Health Benefits Trust (CRHBT) Board of Trustees is responsible for investing the funds designated to pay for all or a portion of the benefits provided under the County retiree benefit plans or a County-funded agency retiree benefit plan, such as retiree

health insurance. Bill 40-16 would amend the County's law to authorize the Board of Trustees to delegate signature authority to the executive director, or a similarly situated County employee, consistent with its fiduciary duties, in its written policies and procedures. The goal of the bill is to better align the roles and responsibilities of the board staff in the oversight of the investment program and increase the efficiency of the operation.

- In 2012 the Council enacted Bill 24-12, which approved a similar delegation authority for the Board of Investment Trustees who oversee the investment programs for the County's retirement plans.
- The State of Maryland, along with numerous other pension systems, currently allow the boards, that oversee the investment of the trust fund assets, to delegate certain functions to the executive director or other staff, if such a delegation is established in policies and procedures. The County's Chief Administrative Officer, in his role as plan administrator, currently has the authority to delegate his duties.



#### Bill 41-16, Community Zoning and Land Use Resource Officer

The Council is scheduled to introduce Bill 41-16. The lead sponsor is Council Vice President Berliner. A public hearing is scheduled for Oct. 25 at 1:30 p.m. The staff packet can be viewed at: [http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=136&event\\_id=4992&meta\\_id=126608](http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=4992&meta_id=126608).

Bill 41-16 would replace provisions for a People's Counsel with provisions for a Community Zoning and Land Use Resource Officer. In the sponsor's opinion, the development approval process can be overwhelming for those responding to the plans of others. A Community Zoning and Land Use Resource Officer would provide an independent source of information to educate residents on how, when and where they may participate in the public approval process for sketch plans, subdivisions, site plans, conditional use applications and variances. Bill 41-16 would prohibit the Resource Officer from being a direct participant in any proceeding in the development process.

- The primary function of the Community Zoning and Land Use Resource Officer would be to:
  - ✓ meet with community members to inform them of critical decision points in the process;
  - ✓ educate community members individually or in group meetings on how to develop effective testimony before decision making bodies; and
  - ✓ answer questions concerning zoning and land use from community members or community organizations.



#### Resolution to Extend Expiration Date Until June 30, 2017 for Bill 19-15, Rental Housing-Landlord-Tenant Obligations

The Council is scheduled to vote on a resolution to extend the expiration date of Bill 19-15. The link to the staff report can be found at:

[http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=136&event\\_id=4992&meta\\_id=126610](http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=4992&meta_id=126610).

Councilmember Elrich is the lead sponsor of this bill. Councilmembers Navarro and Hucker are cosponsors. The next PHED Committee meeting for Bill 19-15 is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 27. The bill would make several changes to the landlord-tenant law, principally aimed at enhancing the existing rights of tenants and improving the quality of rental housing through increased inspections. The amendments fit generally into three categories: leases and landlord tenant obligations; licensing and data collection; and rent adjustments.

- Bill 19-15 would:
  - ✓ provide for annual inspection of certain residential rental properties;
  - ✓ require the use of a standard form lease and applicable optional provisions for certain residential rental properties;
  - ✓ require the publication of certain information related to rental housing;
  - ✓ require the Department of Housing and Community Affairs to review certain rent increases;
  - ✓ provide for certain remedies to be awarded by the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs;

- ✓ provide certain rights to tenants facing rent increases; and
- ✓ generally amend the law related to landlord-tenant relations.



#### Update from County Health Officer & Annual Meeting with Commission on Health

Dr. Ulder J. Tillman, Health Officer for Montgomery County, will provide the Council with the Board of Health update. She will be followed by Mr. Pierre-Marie Longkeng, MHSA, who will provide testimony on behalf of the Commission on Health. The staff report can be viewed at: [http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=136&event\\_id=4992&meta\\_id=126618](http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=4992&meta_id=126618).

Dr. Tillman's presentation will cover the Zika Virus, Tuberculosis control, Refugee Health, immunizations for Montgomery County Public School students, and the Health Montgomery Community Health Needs Assessment. The following are links to the Healthy Montgomery website and to the Community Health Needs Assessment:

<http://www.healthymontgomery.org/> and  
<http://www.healthymontgomery.org/content/sites/montgomery/2016chna.pdf>.



#### MCPS report on efforts toward reducing class size and addressing the achievement gap

The Council will receive a briefing from MCPS on their efforts to reduce class size and address the achievement gap. The staff report can be viewed at:

[http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view\\_id=136&event\\_id=4992&meta\\_id=126616](http://montgomerycountymd.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=136&event_id=4992&meta_id=126616).

In FY17 Budget, the Council set out to make a major course correction. It committed itself to the core goals of closing the educational achievement gap; reducing class sizes; making decisions that were both achievable in the short term and sustainable over time; and ensuring that residents would see results for this additional investment. Some of the changes anticipated by MCPS were more teachers, para-educators, counselors and other support positions, as well as expanded programs to support achievement goals and college and career readiness. MCPS staff will brief the Council on how it is allocating the additional funding in FY17 and what metrics will be used to measure the success of these efforts. Specifically, MCPS will address how they are using the additional funding to invest in:

- Reducing average class size and targeted staffing to provide closer monitoring and supports for students;
- Leveraging resources to increase staff capacity to meet student needs in schools with the largest learning disparities;
- Focusing efforts on increasing the academic success of African American students, Hispanic/Latino students and students impacted by poverty to mitigate disparities in learning opportunities;
- Developing instructional supports and programmatic options to increase learning opportunities for students receiving special education services and our English language learners;
- Providing enhanced curricular and instructional options; and
- Increasing programmatic access by removing barriers and increasing opportunities for learning.